Gay Alliance lawyer says city's stalling

By Gary Craig
Staff writer

A lawyer for the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley Inc. claims the city is trying to delay a ruling on whether the alliance should receive a property tax exemption for its community center.

The center is located at 179-183 Atlantic Ave.

A hearing on the case is now set for 10 a.m. before state Supreme Court Justice Andrew Siracuse.

But city lawyers recently asked to question alliance President Paul Scheib. Alliance lawyers say the deposition is unnecessary.

"We see no reason other than stalling and harassment," alliance lawyer Ellen Yacknin said about the request to question Scheib.

The dispute between the alliance and the city is now entering its third year, and revolves around the state's definition of organizations that can receive tax exemptions. The alliance claims it meets the definition; city officials disagree.

In March 1991, city assessors denied the alliance's request for an exemption. The alliance appealed to the Board of Assessment Review, but the board supported the denial.

The alliance then sued over the denial.

Alliance lawyers say they hope to see the case resolved Monday. They plan to oppose the city's request to question Scheib.

Yacknin said there is no need for the deposition, and the city offered no reason in its court papers.

"I suspected that the city, which has no defense on the merits, would try to stall the case," she said. "To go and have to do a deposition and then wait several weeks for the transcripts to come through could just be a waste of time."

During its deliberations, the assessment review board extensively questioned then-alliance President Claire Parker, Yacknin noted. As well, she said, the alliance has detailed its activities in court filings.

Yacknin also questions why the city believes it needs more information, since the review board was firm in its decision in 1991 and stood by the decision after another review late last year.

City attorney Susan Hauser said the city would still push for the deposition.

Under state law, organizations that are "educational" or "charitable" or foster "moral or mental improvement of men, women or children" can receive exemptions.

The alliance maintains that the organization and its activities — such as providing information to schools and hospitals about the threat of AIDS — meets the definition. ❑

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stemmed from a redistricting controversy 15 years ago, her husband said.

"Just one thing kept her involved. That was the kids. She had a tremendous interest in the kids of the Rush-Henrietta district."

At the time of her death, Mrs. Strickland was director of the Research Information Management

brother, Joel Franklin of Irondequoit; and a sister, Margaret of Los Angeles, Calif.; a stepbrother, Bob Matthews of Rochester; and three stepsisters, Judith Matthews of Sodus, Susan Matthews of Connecticut and Karen Green of Rochester.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on East Henrietta Road. ❑

SCHOOLS

Career day no small business to students

Entrepreneurs speak at Wheatland-Chili

By Dolores Orman
Staff writer

Jaremy Charette is only 16, yet he's already thinking about going into the bicycle design-and-sales business.

He was encouraged during the career-day program yesterday at Wheatland-Chili Junior-Senior High School on North Road in Scottsville.

"Why would you want to start your own company," small-business owner Stephen Brownstein asked the young people in his 45-minute session.